

Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Assistant Director, Research and Reports

Importance of Rice Imports to Specified East and Southeast Asia Countries

This is in reply to your request for additional information with regard to the importance to East and Southeast Asiatic countries of rice imports from Burma, Thailand, and Indo-China.

The attached table shows, for the five most important rice importing countries, figures on imports of rice and other grains, production of rice and other grains, total cereal requirements, requirements for the non self-supplier group, percentage of total diet contributed by cereals, and other appropriate percentages.

Our appraisal of the situation is as follows: In Ceylon and Malaya, rice imports from the Southeast Asia exporting sources, represents about 40% of total cereal consumption, and from 50 to 60% of cereals consumed by the urban or non self-supplier portion of the population. The loss of the Southeast Asia sources of rice would cause great hardship in these countries. (It is stressed that the importance of rice imports to the consumers of all five countries shown on the table is best shown by the relationship of the imports to the consumption needs of the non self-supplier group, often the rationed group. It is this category for whose food supplies the government must assume responsibility, and which must obtain its supplies from imports and that portion of the indigenous crop which is collected or marketed. The quantity that can be collected from the farmers is limited, and it is often difficult to achieve good collections when imported food is scarce and heavy collections are badly needed.)

In India, Indonesia and Japan the percentage importance of Southeast Asia rice is much less, though in Indonesia it represents about 13% of the requirements of the urban group and in India about 7% of the cereal needs of the rationed population. In these countries the loss of the Southeast Asia rice source would be felt, and would probably result in some reduction in consumption by the urban population. Part of the loss would probably be offset by increased imports of wheat, but at the expenditure of dollars, since the United States and Canada would be the only good sources of this grain. Japan desires to import much more rice than it has been possible to do in recent years, and thus reduces her dependence on grain from dollar sources. The loss of Southeast Asia rice would increase Japan's dependence on the United States for grain.

It is estimated that the price of rice in dollars per ton f.o.b. port in Burma or Siam on the coming rice crop will be in the neighborhood of \$140 per metric ton.

MAX F. MILLIKAN

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## IMPORTATION OF RICE, THAILAND, INDO-CHINA RICE EXPORTS TO SELECTED ASIATIC COUNTRIES

(figures in 100 metric tons)

Country	Rice Imported/ Burma Thailand Indo-China	Rice Imported/ Other Sources	Total/ Rice Imports	Imported/ Other Grains	Rice Production	Other Grains Production	Total/ Cereal Requirements	Cereals/ Requirements from Self- Suppliers	% Total Not con- tributed by Cereals
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
<u>India</u> Quantity \$ Total Cereal Require- ments \$ from Self-Supplier Cereal Requirements	550 1 7	101 3/ 1	651 1 9	2,650 6 32	2/21,200 2/22,975	47,476	2/6,300	70	
<u>Ceylon</u> Quantity \$ Total Cereal Require- ments \$ from Self-Supplier Cereal Requirements	374 43 52	45 5 6	419 48 58	2/252 4/ 35	234 negl.	875	720	70	
<u>Malaya</u> Quantity \$ Total Cereal Require- ments \$ from Self-Supplier Cereal Requirements	422 39 60	52 5 7	474 44 67	2/163 4/ 23	442 negl.	1,079	700	70	
<u>Japan</u> Quantity \$ Total Cereal Require- ments \$ from Self-Supplier Cereal Requirements	219 1 3	80 9/ 1	299 2 4	2,512 16 29	4/ 9,378 4/ 3,703	15,892	8,600	65	

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## IMPORTS OF BURMA, THAILAND, INDO-CHINA AND REPORTS TO SUPPLYING COUNTRIES (Continued)

(figures in 1000 metric tons)

	(1) Rice Imports/ Burma Thailand Indo-China	(2) Rice Imports/ Other Sources	(3) Total/ Rice Imports	(4) Imports/ Other Grains	(5) Rice Production	(6) Other Grains Production	(7) Total/ Cereal Requirements	(8) Cereals/ Requirements Non Self- Sufficiency	(9) Total Dietary Contributed by Cereals
Indonesia									
Quantity	235	61	296	88	4/ 6,730	4/ 958	8,022	1,780	60
5 Total Cereal Requirements	3	1	4	1					
6 Non Self-Sufficiency	14	3	17	5					
Cereal Requirements									

- 3/ Three-year average (1948-50).
- 2/ Three-year average (1948-49 thru 1950-51), except as otherwise noted.
- 2/ Three-year average (1947-48 thru 1949-50).
- 4/ Three-year average (1949-51).
- 5/ Represents the sum of columns 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- 6/ Represents total cereals imported plus that portion of domestic production estimated to be consumed by the urban or non-self-supplier group.
- 7/ Required by rationed population. For 1951 this figure estimated to be about 9,000,000 tons - somewhat lower in preceding years.
- 8/ Less than 1/2 of 1%.

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4 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Source of East and Southeast Asia Rice Imports

This is in reply to your verbal request for information relative to the usual source of rice imports for East and Southeast Asia importing countries.

The attached table shows, by country of source and country of destination, the average level of trade in rice for the last three years (1948 through 1950) for which relatively good figures are available. As the table indicates, East and Southeast Asiatic countries currently receive over 30 percent of their rice imports from the three sources, Burma, Thailand, and Indo-China.



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Enclosure

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